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REPORT

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1. The attitude of the general public toward war, as I recall, was this; "If war comes, we'll fight; if war doesn't come, so much the better". The majority however felt that the Chinese people were due for a period of peace and quiet. Because of the Civil War, Japanese War, and World War II, my people have been exposed to wars, and this alone accounts for their attitude of indifference. Those living in the larger cities have played a minor role, as far as supplying manpower for military service is concerned. In the past, the draft system has been very much disorganized. The majority of recruits and replacements in the Army were pulled from agricultural regions.
2. Everyone was of the opinion that a large air force was the major defensive weapon for China. Regardless of economic or social grouping, all considered it a great honor to be a member of the air force. Qualifications, physical and mental, for air force training were the same for all classes. I would estimate that 90% of the total air force personnel came from middle class families. Socially-prominent families did not discourage their sons to enlist in the air force, although they were more interested in seeing them receive a university education. There was no tendency of the socially elite to look down upon service in upstart air force; they would never go out of their way however to help air force personnel. The socially elite, who may have had relatives in the air force or may have lost a pilot son during the war, were prone to be sympathetic toward service people.
3. Before and during World War II, there was an "Air Force Superiority Complex". Civilians were always looked upon as weaklings. This same attitude was held toward members of the other services.

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- 2 -

4. Officer-enlisted man relations were most satisfactory. Relations of officers with equal rank were abominable. When new assignments were passed out, date of rank and the officer's school of graduation were carefully considered. There were no social cliques within the air force. Religion was never discussed beyond family circles. Sixty per cent of the men felt that religion was only superficial and to each individual's like or dislike. There were frequent arguments between men from the north and those from the south. Men from the north were straightforward and sincere.
5. Pilots and co-pilots participated in the following recreational activities: swimming, horseback riding, basketball, and occasionally played basketball. Navigators would very seldom join the pilots and co-pilots for recreation. The mechanics were in a group by themselves. They looked upon pilots as playboys, and the pilots considered mechanics as "washouts" from pilot training school.
6. Women in the service were used as telephone operators, receptionists, and secretaries but never in a supervisory or executive capacity. The men felt that women had no place in the service.
7. The age bracket in the air force was between 25 and 35 years. Ninety per cent were sons of middle class families, five per cent each from the rich and poor families. West and Central China produced very few pilots. Ages of pilots ranged between 25 and 30 years of age, co-pilots between 18 and 25, mechanics between 20 and 35, administrative persons approximately 37 years of age and those in supply were approximately 30 years of age.
8. Other military services and government personnel considered the air force as a necessary evil. Any priority in budgetary appropriations was given to the air force. They felt that its members were the cream of the crop and that the air force had preference over other military services.

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